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Chairman: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

later: Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal)
(Vice-Chairman)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 123: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued) (A/48/6, A/48/7, A/48/16 (Parts I and II) and A/48/32/Rev.1/Add.1; A/C.5/48/9 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and A/C.5/48/26)

General debate (continued)

1. Mr. KERSTEIN (Slovenia) said that his delegation understood the reasons for a modest real growth in the overall level of resources for the following biennium in view of the increasing responsibilities of the United Nations. It did not, however, believe that the departure from the budget outline to the tune of $47 million, as set out in General Assembly resolution 47/213, was justified. He supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the matter.

2. Slovenia welcomed the priorities identified in the proposed programme budget and appreciated the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen activities such as peace-keeping, humanitarian affairs and human rights. The proposed increase was, however, insufficient: the percentage growth of resources for the programmes might appear substantial, but the basis for the calculation of growth was rather small.

3. The world-wide concern with the protection of human rights had led to a significant expansion of the activities entrusted to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights. To meet the challenges of its new mandates, it was planned that the Centre should have a new organizational structure. Yet most of the proposed growth for that purpose related solely to financing posts already temporarily redeployed to the Centre. With the request from the World Conference on Human Rights for a substantial increase in resources for human rights programmes, his delegation believed that the proposed increase under that heading was not sufficient. With regard to peace-keeping operations he requested a more comprehensive explanation of the advantages and disadvantages of incorporating the Field Operations Division in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

4. Despite the effort that had been put into the preparation of the proposed programme budget, too little attention had been paid to identifying areas of lower priority which could be curtailed or eliminated altogether. In that connection he noted the current restructuring and rationalization of the United Nations, which should result in clearer lines of responsibility and accountability. His delegation therefore supported the establishment of an Office for Inspections and Investigations.

5. Lastly, he expressed his delegation's concern regarding the inadequate response to section II of General Assembly resolution 47/212 B, which had envisaged more than the mere relocation to Vienna of the servicing for the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. He also wondered why there were proposals to increase the responsibilities of the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva in matters for which

(Mr. Kerstein, Slovenia)

Vienna would, for geographical and other reasons be the most logical choice. He hoped that the General Assembly's request for additional activities to be relocated to Vienna would be met.

First reading (continued)

Part IV. International cooperation for development (continued)

Part V. Regional cooperation for development (continued)

6. Ms. ERIKSSON-FOGH (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries on section 10, said that the Nordic delegations had severe doubts regarding the proposed incorporation of the Office for Project Services within the Department for Development Support and Management Services. The Governing Council of UNDP had outlined various requirements that should be clarified before the transfer took place, and the Nordic delegations felt that a number of concerns had not been adequately addressed. Accordingly they recommended that the merger should be postponed, and they took note of the views of the Advisory Committee thereon.

7. Regarding the appointment of the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre under section 11B, the Nordic delegations were extremely apprehensive that the post had remained vacant for two years. The resulting uncertainty had had serious consequences for the work of the Centre and the needs of developing countries. A prompt appointment was crucial. The Nordic countries endorsed the relevant recommendations of CPC.

8. Mr. CHUINKAM (Cameroon) said that because the organizational structures of the three new departments that had been established in the economic and social sector were still in flux, ACABQ and the Fifth Committee were deprived of information essential for proper consideration of the related budget proposals. Since the preparation and servicing of the International Conference on Population and Development was at stake, his delegation supported the request of the Secretary-General. It also shared the views contained in paragraphs IV.41 and VI.43, concerning the Transnational Corporations, Technology and Investment Division, the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development, and the International Trade Centre. Regrettably, despite repeated calls by Member States, the Secretary-General had not seen fit to make appointments to fill vacancies in the Centre. The Secretariat should provide an explanation for its failure to implement resolution 47/212 B, section I.

9. His country welcomed the allocation in the budget for the post of Under-Secretary-General for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and stressed that the resources for that section should be administered separately from those of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It agreed, in general, with the recommendations regarding regional cooperation for development. With regard to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), however, it requested the secretariat to clarify whether the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/67 relating to the ECA subprogramme on information systems development had been taken into account in the preparation of the proposed budget.

10. Mr. ELZIMAITY (Egypt), speaking on parts IV and V of the proposed programme budget, welcomed the decision to establish three new departments dealing with economic affairs. He was glad to hear that they would be able to perform efficiently, at least for a limited time, without any increase in expenditure. It was regrettable that ACABQ opposed the proposals to grant those departments a small increase, instead of proposing solutions that impeded their work. Cases in point were the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the preparatory work on the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. If ACABQ really proposed to halve the allocation to the Conference, as it appeared to do, there would be no scope either for preparatory work or for any follow-up.

11. He questioned the methodology on which the distribution of resources among the various programmes in the economoic and social sectors was based. The United Nations should, as a matter of urgency, review its priorities and determine which was more important, human rights or the eradication of poverty. The resources requested for both UNCTAD and the Economic Commission for Africa were meagre compared with those allocated to human rights. Africa had embarked on the Fourth United Nations Development Decade under difficult conditions and it needed all the help it could get. Even the African Economic Community, which had been established in Abuja in June 1991 had not been given sufficient financial or logistical support by the Economic Commission for Africa.

12. With regard to GATT, he said that Africa was the weakest link in the international trading system; indeed, its share had dropped over recent years and if the Uruguay Round was successfully concluded the new provisions would have a harmful effect on the Lomé Convention. Yet it was difficult to establish what proportion of the proposed $2.7 billion expenditure under the proposed programme budget was destined for Africa. In his delegation's view, the most productive use of the money would be to develop the regional centres, such as the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs). Institutions that should be supported were the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

13. Decentralization should be extended in as many fields as possible, which would include the regional centres. The Economic Commission for Africa, like the other regional commissions, was suffering as a result of bureaucratic rigidity. Greater autonomy in recruitment would be helpful so that the regional commissions could make appointments at levels higher than P-4. A further problem was the very high vacancy rate resulting from the freeze on recruitment. Extrabudgetary resources would shrink because of changes in arrangements for financing UNDP projects and the services of extremely knowledgeable experts, with many years' experience, would be lost. Ultimately, it was for the United Nations to decide what proportion of the budget should be earmarked for the eradication of poverty.

14. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) said that the General Assembly had rightly decided that economic and social development was one of the most important objectives of United Nations activities. Her delegation was therefore deeply concerned that the proposed programme budget did not reflect the importance of that objective.

(Mrs. Goicochea, Cuba)

Moreover, it was most regrettable that the sections were presented in such a way that there was no clear definition of priorities or timetables, or the status of subprogrammes. There seemed to be some confusion between programming and budgeting.

15. She requested clarification on the extent to which General Assembly resolutions constituted a mandate. She also requested more information both on the approach to allocating resources to departments which executed operational programmes and on the entire question of decentralization, which was extremely important, particularly in matters relating to energy and natural resources.

16. Her delegation endorsed the remarks in paragraph IV.3 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/48/7), to the effect that there was a need for a clear statement of an overall restructuring plan and a time-frame for its implementation. Since that view had been endorsed by the General Assembly, she requested the Secretariat to put forward proposals for a restructuring timetable. More detail was also needed on the Secretariat structures performing the functions previously carried out by the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation. She further asked for information on the action taken following General Assembly resolution 44/215, on eliminating the use of coercive measures against developing countries. She wondered if that was another mandate that had disappeared. If so, it was quite wrong that that should have happened.

17. The statement in paragraph 8.9 of the proposed programme budget, to the effect that the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development would assume primary responsibility for the preparation of an annual policy report of the Secretary-General on issues which called for concerted international action was too vague and she requested further information. Referring to paragraph 8.22, she said that by implication the future of the Committee for Development Planning was dependent on intergovernmental consultations. Her delegation strongly disagreed with that approach. Meanwhile she requested information on the current status of the consultations. More information should be provided on the proposals regarding the subprogramme structure for activities to be carried out by the Department, which paragraph 8.46 left deliberately vague. The Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Barbados in 1994, should have been included among the issues to which the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA) was to pay special attention.

18. Turning to paragraph 9.9, she asked what mandate there was for the analyses mentioned, and indeed what the purpose of such an approach was. DESIPA could equally usefully concern itself with other matters. Referring to table 9.8, she inquired why substantial growth was proposed for expenditure on furniture and equipment, while spending on contractual services would be reduced considerably. There was no mandate for the activities outlined in paragraph 9.30. The same applied to subprogramme 5 in paragraph 9.31. In all the instances which she had mentioned a very selective approach was evident.

(Mrs. Goicochea, Cuba)

19. With reference to section 10, her delegation was concerned both by the reductions in expenditure and by the uncertainty of the relationship between the medium-term plan and the budget. On the latter point, she pointed to the different emphases of paragraphs 10.24 and 10.35. Her delegation could not approve the approach of either paragraph, particularly in the light of programme 21. One important victim of the reduction of resources was UNCTAD, which would receive 50 per cent less resources for scientific and technical activities and 25 per cent less for activities relating to transnational corporations. The recommendations of ACABQ would further reduce the resources allocated to UNCTAD by cutting the provision for consultants. The Secretariat should provide specific information on the actual distribution of resources and on the redeployment of posts from the activities of transnational corporations and from science and technology to other sections.

20. Mr. OWADE (Kenya) said that the Kenyan delegation endorsed the comments made by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and by China concerning the budget proposals. In particular, it supported the programmes described in section 12B. With regard to the provision for an under-secretary-general post for Habitat, the mandates contained in resolution 47/212 B and in the resolutions of the Commission on Human Settlements concerning the appointment of its Executive Director must be respected. Habitat must be given adequate resources to carry out the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and to prepare for the Habitat II Conference. It was clear that those activities were the responsibility of the Executive Director and they might be adversely affected by the delay in making the appointment.

21. UNEP and Habitat must retain their separate mandates, and the Kenyan delegation could not support the Secretary-General's proposals concerning their common executive direction. Furthermore, the Controller had said that the appointment of the Executive Director of Habitat would take place as soon as the General Assembly had approved a post at the assistant secretary-general level. That was an unacceptable condition because the Secretary-General had already been given a clear mandate in the matter.

22. The Kenyan delegation endorsed the comments made by the representative of Egypt concerning the inadequacy of the resources allocated to Africa; in particular, the MULPOCs required strengthening.

23. The Executive Director of ITC must also be appointed quickly, because the Centre performed important functions of benefit to the developing countries. The comments made by the representative of Cameroon concerning allocations for ECA were also welcome. In particular, ECA must carry out the activities in statistical information systems development described under programme paragraph 6 in section 15.

24. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that while parts IV and V of the programme budget covered major priorities of the medium-term plan, the proposed division of responsibilities and labour among the six functional units funded under part IV and the regional commissions funded under part V would lead not to greater

(Mr. Merifield, Canada)

effectiveness and programme delivery but simply to overexpenditure on cumbersome administrative units. In examining the resources allocated to those sections, a closer look should be taken at the relation between the regular budget and extrabudgetary funds. Australia, Canada and New Zealand agreed with the Controller that it might not be possible to present expenditure from voluntary contributions in the same way as regular budget estimates of expenditure were presented. The argument that economic development priorities in the medium-term plan were not receiving adequate resources based solely on the share of regular budget expenditure allocated to the programme was, however, very misleading.

25. With regard to the many economic and social programmes covered by part IV, he noted that the continuous restructuring of the Secretariat had probably not made it more cost-effective or streamlined. For example, the creation, in the current year, of three departments to replace one had resulted in the addition of two executive offices of doubtful benefit to the programmes.

26. Once again using a narrow definition of "mandate" to satisfy a political view, ACABQ had recommended that a grant of $500,000 to the Non-governmental Liaison Services should be cut; contrary to the contention of ACABQ, numerous legislative mandates existed, including decisions of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Interregional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and, especially, Agenda 21, which discussed the role of non-governmental organizations at length.

27. The Advisory Committee recommended the deletion of posts from the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, which had played a major role in building the credibility of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. Australia, Canada and New Zealand felt that the posts in question should be retained pending further review. They agreed, however, that the relationship between DESIPA and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) should be reviewed and endorse the recommendation on a provisional basis, subject to further information.

28. With regard to section 10, since no new information had been received on the overall structure of the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the three delegations would support the transfer of the Office for Project Services (OPS) into that department. They emphasized that no increase should occur in regular budget resources over the maintenance level proposed and requested confirmation that the implementation of that decision would not result in supernumeraries. They also emphasized that the resources ostensibly allocated to the natural resources and energy sector should not be wasted by being diverted into a politically inspired decentralization plan. Furthermore, in the overview of section 10, the Secretary-General had stated that there would be no need for an implementing structure for technical assistance projects in any of the Headquarters economic cooperation divisions once the Office for Project Services was integrated. In the budget proposals, however, significant extrabudgetary and regular programme funds were allocated to operational

(Mr. Merifield, Canada)

activities in each of the three departments: an explanation of that seeming contradiction would be necessary before the budget could be approved.

29. Australia, Canada and New Zealand requested the Secretariat to explain why no executive director had been appointed for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT. That post was budgeted at the assistant secretary-general level but had not been included in the recently circulated list of high-level regular budget posts. Presumably, that post was financed jointly with GATT and was thus outside the scope of the regular budget.

30. The three countries fully supported the integration of the administrative functions of Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), under section 12, which would make it possible to eliminate posts or redeploy them to substantive functions.

31. Unfortunately, part V offered extremely limited guidance with regard to the regional commissions and the Committee would therefore be obliged to look at those estimates ab initio. With regard to paragraphs V.3 and V.5 of the ACABQ report, if the administrative structures of the regional commissions were indeed too large, the resources should be redeployed and administrative posts abolished. Furthermore, in the absence of any justification for not doing so, the cuts in travel and equipment applied to other sections must also be applied to the regional commissions, as should the general rule that all post reclassifications should be deferred. Furthermore, no justification had been provided for the transfer of resources from the regular programme of technical cooperation to the regional commissions, and particularly to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and full details would be required from the Secretariat before that transfer could be approved.

32. Mr. RONNEBERG (Marshall Islands), speaking also on behalf of the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands, said that the Non-governmental Liaison Services were of great importance to those countries, and that they were profoundly concerned by the recommendation in paragraph IV.15 of the ACABQ report to eliminate the contribution to that body. Member States had indicated in numerous resolutions their strong support for non-governmental organizations and for the participation of those organizations in United Nations conferences, particularly those conferences that stemmed from follow-up activities to UNCED. The six countries opposed the recommended deletion, as it would seriously undermine the ability of non-governmental organizations to participate in such activities. Furthermore, he wished to draw attention to paragraph 20 of the report of the Committee on Information to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly (A/37/21) and to resolution 37/94 B, paragraph 1, which provided the legislative mandate for those activities.

33. Mr. CLAVIJO (Colombia) endorsed the recommendations of ACABQ on the importance of improving the division of labour between the three new departments that had been established under part IV and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It also attached great importance to the view

(Mr. Clavijo, Colombia)

of ACABQ that the decentralization measures announced by the Secretary-General for the near future would affect not only the regional commissions but the regular programme of technical cooperation as well.

34. With the aim of improving the division of labour, the functions of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development needed to be reviewed and clarified. The area of food was one example: although paragraph IV.20 of the ACABQ report referred to furniture and equipment, the substantive problem lay not in administrative details but in the division of labour between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Department. With regard to the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, his country agreed with Egypt that preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, which was held only every 10 years, were at a crucial stage and, therefore, reducing the resources allocated for that purpose could not be justified. The Advisory Committee's recommendation to reduce the provision for consultants and experts in relation to transnational corporations should be closely scrutinized. In the view of Colombia, it would not be cost-efficient to have an in-house capacity to deal with the many issues involved.

35. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) said that the Advisory Committee had recommended that the six additional posts requested by the Secretary-General under section 9 to work on micro-economic issues should be provided by redeployment within the Department. The recommendation appeared justified on the whole, but the Committee should have additional information on the subject from the Secretariat before it took a decision.

36. The Secretary-General clearly intended to give a new impetus to his restructuring of the economic and social sectors, and his proposals were in the interest of many countries concerned with issues of micro-economic development, especially the countries whose economic systems were in transition. The proposals rightly gave special attention to such questions as privatization, demonopolization, administrative deregulation of economic activities, pricing mechanisms, and the expanded use of market mechanisms. It would be interesting to know whether by means of redeployment the Department could find Professional staff members with a knowledge of micro-economic analysis and research experience in the field, for it was most important to ensure that the activities were successful.

37. Mr. JU Kuilin (China) said that section 8 covered very important economic and development issues for the developing countries. As CPC had noted in paragraph 89 of its report, the Department's activities were of high priority, and the Secretary-General had argued that it had not been allocated sufficient human and material resources in comparison with other departments. It was surprising that the Advisory Committee should have recommended reductions in the programmes and some justification for that recommendation from its Chairman would be welcome.

38. In paragraph IV.11 of its report, ACABQ recommended a reduction of $1,641,400 in the provision for the ad hoc secretariat on desertification. The

(Mr. Ju Kuilin, China)

Chinese delegation would like to know whether the activities in question were planned to last for one or two years; and if for two years, whether they would be adversely affected by the reduction.

39. In paragraph IV.12 ACABQ expressed the view that the cost for three international conferences in 1994-1995 was high and that the number of participants should be limited. The conferences in question were very important, especially the Fourth World Conference on Women, and delegations from all countries should be able to participate. With regard to the latter conference, which would be held in Beijing, the Chinese Government had already done its utmost to ensure the maximum participation, and CPC had in fact noted that the conference should be given financial support.

40. The work of Habitat was very important for many developing countries and the post of Executive Director should be filled at the assistant secretary-general level.

41. The failure to finalize the integration of the Office for Project Services into the Department for Development Support and Management Services had created an unsettling situation. China hoped that a solution to the issue would be found soon. It was also concerned about the proposal to transfer the World Food Council secretariat to New York because it might adversely affect the good coordination existing among the organizations based in Rome. It would also like to know whether the Council's original mandate had been cut back.

42. The Advisory Committee's recommended reduction in the allocation for ESCAP was puzzling. In view of the increase in the importance and scope of economic and trade activities in the region, ESCAP should in fact be strengthened.

43. Mrs. Emerson (Portugal), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

44. Mr. NDOBOLE (Uganda) said that the Ugandan delegation supported the many previous speakers who had endorsed the Secretary-General's assertion that there could be no democracy and lasting peace without sustainable development. The task was to express that assertion in budgetary terms.

45. Generally speaking, Uganda endorsed the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the international cooperation for development programmes. However, with regard to Habitat, it drew attention to table 12B.3, which showed a provision for a post at the under-secretary-general level; the post of Executive Director should not be downgraded to the assistant secretary-general level, for the activities of Habitat were very important, especially in view of the forthcoming Habitat II Conference.

46. The Ugandan delegation welcomed the improvements made in the presentation of section 15 on the Economic Commission for Africa but thought that the narrative could also be improved. The growth rate of 2.6 per cent for ECA indicated in paragraph 15A.5 was too small and represented only new programmes. The new programmes were certainly welcome, but the continuing decentralization of activities meant that the regional commissions were also being entrusted with

(Mr. Ndobole, Uganda)

other new tasks without the necessary allocation of additional resources. The MULPOCs must also be strengthened because of their importance for programme delivery.

47. The provision made in paragraph 15A.42 concerning a grant to UNAFRI was welcome in view of the Institute's financial problems, as was the grant to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) referred to in paragraph 15A.22.

48. The proposals concerning the poverty alleviation subprogramme were appreciated, but the resources allocated were not commensurate with the activities to be undertaken. One of the best ways to increase awareness of the United Nations at the grass-roots level during the Organization's fiftieth anniversary would be to implement successfully programmes for alleviation of poverty.

49. With regard to section 13 on crime control, in its resolution 1993/32 the Economic and Social Council had requested the Secretary-General to allocate the necessary resources for the organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. However, section 13 made no provision for a daily subsistence allowance for delegations from the least developed countries attending regional preparatory meetings. Uganda was to host one of the meetings and wanted to ensure its success. Most of the countries of Africa were least developed countries; without adequate financial assistance it would be difficult for them to participate effectively in the preparatory work and in the Congress itself.

50. Mr. RAE (India) said that his delegation attached great importance to the work of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors and to the functioning of the regional economic commissions, and, broadly speaking, endorsed the pertinent recommendations of the Advisory Committee. India had supported the restructuring of the Secretariat in the economic and social sectors, and agreed with the Advisory Committee that the programmatic aspects relating to the creation of the three new departments and the ultimate structuring of those departments should be finalized.

51. While it was important to ensure coordination between the three new departments and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), that should not result in undue increases in expenditure on travel between New York and Geneva. His delegation regretted the decline in extrabudgetary funds and the stagnation in regular budget resources for economic and social activities.

52. He was concerned that the transfer to UNCTAD of the activities carried out by the former Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development had resulted in a downgrading of their importance. UNCTAD should establish a separate division for each of those two areas, and adequate resources must be made available for that purpose. In that regard he was surprised to note the surrender of a D-2 post formerly under the subprogramme on trade among countries having different economic and social

(Mr. Rae, India)

systems. The resources released by termination of that subprogramme should be reallocated in support of the new functions assumed by UNCTAD. Regarding section 11B, he trusted that further information regarding the review of the situation at the International Trade Centre would be made available before the end of the session.

53. His delegation supported the request for $1.3 million for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which must be provided with adequate resources. Lastly, his delegation supported the views of the representative of Uganda regarding section 13.

54. Mr. AVALLE (Argentina) said that his delegation had supported the decentralization of functions to the regional economic commissions as a means of improving the effectiveness of programme execution. Nevertheless, he noted with concern that the move seemed not to be improving efficiency at the commissions, essentially because a corresponding delegation of political functions had not taken place. The two needed to go hand in hand.

55. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that economic cooperation among developing countries and regional cooperation were essential priorities of the General Assembly. Consequently, adequate resources must be made available under the relevant budget sections. It was important to ensure proper coordination among the three new departments established in the economic and social sectors, a point already made by CPC.

56. Regarding the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the grade structures of the secretariat of the International Year of the Family and of the ad hoc secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification should be reviewed, he trusted that adequate resources would be provided to those two secretariats. In particular, his delegation could not support the Advisory Committee recommendation for a reduction in the provisions for the ad hoc secretariat.

57. With respect to section 9, he did not agree with the Advisory Committee that the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in September 1994, could be serviced by the staff of the Population Division. In view of the importance of the Conference to the developing countries, adequate resources must be provided.

58. Under section 10, his delegation would welcome clarification regarding the units concerned with natural resources and energy activities. He also wished to have clarification of the Advisory Committee's recommendation that a provisional amount of some $29 million should be approved. In that connection, the views of CPC on section 10 must be taken into account.

59. Turning to section 15, he noted that the economic and social development of Africa was a United Nations priority. The resources proposed were, therefore, scarcely adequate, particularly in view of the requirements of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. In addition, the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres must be strengthened. In that

(Mr. Zahid, Morocco)

connection his delegation endorsed the comments of the Advisory Committee in paragraph V.11 of its report regarding redeployment of resources to ECA.

60. Mr. DJACTA (Algeria) said that international and regional cooperation were among the priorities established under the medium-term plan, and he questioned whether the economic and social sectors were receiving adequate resources following the restructuring. In that connection it was important to ensure coordination at the programme level between the three new departments and UNCTAD.

61. His delegation could not accept the Advisory Committee's recommendations relating to section 9, in particular the proposed reduction in resources for the International Conference on Population and Development. Lastly, with regard to section 15, it was essential for ECA to be provided with adequate resources.

62. Mr. RANASINGHE (Sri Lanka) speaking on section 12, said that UNEP appeared to be producing certain publications that related to Habitat, a merging of responsibilities which he found difficult to understand. It would be preferable for the Secretary-General to maintain the distinction between the two bodies. Equally, his delegation did not understand the statement by the Secretary-General that, while senior management of those two bodies would be distinct, they would be placed under common direction. Further to the comment by the controller that the head of Habitat would be appointed as soon as the General Assembly had approved a post at an appropriate level, his delegation did not think that the Secretariat should establish conditions in such a matter, and, further, did not support the view of the Secretary-General that the level of the post should be downgraded. In conclusion, his delegation considered the provisions for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to be adequate.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.